



PTO/SB/65 (03-09)

Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

<b>PETITION TO ACCEPT UNAVOIDABLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(b))</b>	Docket Number (Optional) 43339-88004
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**RECEIVED**

Mail to: Mail Stop Petition  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria VA 22313-1450  
Fax: (571) 273-8300

JAN 18 2011

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**OFFICE OF PETITIONS**

NOTE: If information or assistance is needed in completing this form, please contact Petitions Information at (571) 272-3282.

Patent Number: 6409599

Application Number: 09617388

Issue Date: 2002-06-25

Filing Date: 2000-07-17

**CAUTION:** Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number (or reissue patent number, if a reissue) and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application (or reissue application) leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

**Also complete the following information, if applicable:**

The above-identified patent:

is a reissue of original Patent No. \_\_\_\_\_ original issue date \_\_\_\_\_  
original application number \_\_\_\_\_  
original filing date \_\_\_\_\_

resulted from the entry into the U.S. under 35 U.S.C. 371 of international application \_\_\_\_\_ filed on \_\_\_\_\_

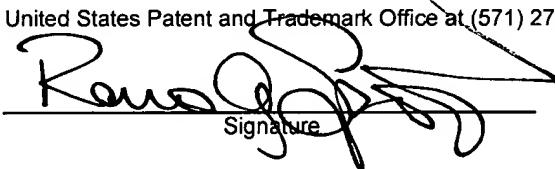
2011-1 PM 4:21

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION (37 CFR 1.8(a))**

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is

(1) being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Petition, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 OR

(2) transmitted by facsimile on the date shown below to the United States Patent and Trademark Office at (571) 273-8300.

2010-12-29  
Date  
Signature

Randy T. Sprout

Typed or printed name of person signing Certificate

[Page 1 of 4]

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(b). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 8 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Mail Stop Petition, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.

## 1. SMALL ENTITY

Pattee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27

## 2. LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

Pattee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)

## 3. MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition, unless it was paid earlier.

NOT Small Entity			Small Entity		
Amount	Fee	(Code)	Amount	Fee	(Code)
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$ _____	3 ½ yr fee	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$ _____	3 ½ yr fee
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$ _____	7 ½ yr fee	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	\$ 1240.00	7 ½ yr fee
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$ _____	11 ½ yr fee	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$ _____	11 ½ yr fee

MAINTENANCE FEE BEING SUBMITTED \$ 1240.00

## 4. SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(1) of \$ 700.00 (Fee Code 1557) must be paid as a condition of accepting unavoidably delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

SURCHARGE FEE BEING SUBMITTED \$ 700.00

## 5. MANNER OF PAYMENT

Enclosed is a check for the sum of \$ 1940.00

Please charge Deposit Account No. \_\_\_\_\_ the sum of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.

## 6. AUTHORIZATION TO CHARGE ANY FEE DEFICIENCY

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any maintenance fee, surcharge or petition fee deficiency to Deposit Account No. \_\_\_\_\_

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

**7. OVERPAYMENT**

As to any overpayment made, please

 Credit to Deposit Account No. \_\_\_\_\_**OR** Send refund check**WARNING:**

Petitioner/applicant is cautioned to avoid submitting personal information in documents filed in a patent application that may contribute to identity theft. Personal information such as social security numbers, bank account numbers, or credit card numbers (other than a check or credit card authorization form PTO-2038 submitted for payment purposes) is never required by the USPTO to support a petition or an application. If this type of personal information is included in documents submitted to the USPTO, petitioners/applicants should consider redacting such personal information from the documents before submitting them to the USPTO. Petitioner/applicant is advised that the record of a patent application is available to the public after publication of the application (unless a non-publication request in compliance with 37 CFR 1.213(a) is made in the application) or issuance of a patent. Furthermore, the record from an abandoned application may also be available to the public if the application is referenced in a published application or an issued patent (see 37 CFR 1.14). Checks and credit card authorization forms PTO-2038 submitted for payment purposes are not retained in the application file and therefore are not publicly available.

**8. SHOWING**

The enclosed statement will show that the delay in timely payment of the maintenance fee was unavoidable since reasonable care was taken to ensure that the maintenance fee would be paid timely and that this petition is being filed promptly after the patentee was notified of, or otherwise became aware of, the expiration of the patent. The statement must enumerate the steps taken to ensure timely payment of the maintenance fee, the date and the manner in which the patentee became aware of the expiration of the patent, and the steps taken to file the petition promptly.

**9. PETITIONER(S) REQUESTS THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED.**

2010-12-29

Date

Signature(s) of Petitioner(s)

Randy T. Sprout, Susan M. Sprout

Typed or printed name(s)

Registration Number, if applicable

16024 Manchester Road #200, Ellisville, MO 63011

314-409-2228

Address

Telephone Number

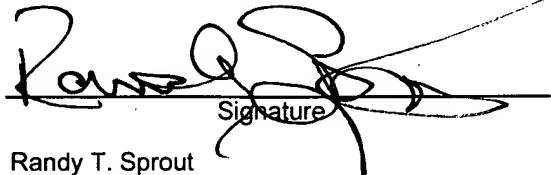
Address

**ENCLOSURES:**

- Maintenance Fee Payment
- Statement why maintenance fee was not paid timely
- Surcharge under 37 CFR 1.20(i)(1) (fee for filing the maintenance fee petition)
- Other:

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

37 CFR 1.378(d) states: "Any petition under this section must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest."



Signature

Randy T. Sprout

Type or printed name

2010-12-29

Date

Registration Number, if applicable

**STATEMENT**

(In the space below, please provide the showing of unavoidable delay recited in paragraph 8 above.)

The petitioners did not receive the reminder notice for the patent maintenance fees that were due.

The notice must have been sent to the original attorneys that helped us with the filing:

"Greensfelder Hemker & Gale PC"

and they did not notify us about the fee due, nor did they forward the reminder notice to us or our current law firm:

"Berger Cohen Brandt Law Firm, 8000 Maryland Avenue, Suite 1550, Clayton, MO 63105".

Recently, the Greensfelder firm forwarded the patent expiration notice to our current law firm, and they sent it to the us, the petitioners. Therefore, we did not know about the fee due, nor the expiration, until now. Once this matter came to our attention, we contacted the USPTO via telephone and processed this petition.

Thank you very much.

We would also request that you change the name of our official agent for future communications to:

"Mr. Steve Cohen, Berger Cohen Brandt Law Firm, 8000 Maryland Avenue, Suite 1550, Clayton, MO 63105".

*(Please attach additional sheets if additional space is needed)*



## Privacy Act Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether disclosure of these records is required by the Freedom of Information Act.
2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.
3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.
4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).
5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.
6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).
7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.
8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspection or an issued patent.
9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.